AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for satellite positioning using positioning signals which are sent out by the various satellites of a satellite constellation under the control of a set of ground stations from which said satellites receive control signals, and which are available to be picked up by ~~individual~~ a plurality of user receivers, comprising:

[[-]] emitting, from said set of ground stations, periodically renewed direct transformation functions which are addressed respectively to each satellite of said satellite constellation and applying the direct transformation function received by each satellite to encode the positioning signals emitted therefrom;

[[-]] ~~and further, upon each request from a user receiver addressed to a user servicing station,~~ verifying that ~~said~~ a user receiver has a right to a privileged-user status upon each request from the user receiver addressed to a user servicing station and, in the event that the verification is positive, addressing to said user receiver reverse transformation functions that are inverse to the direct transformation functions applied at the satellites from which said user receiver receives positioning signals, wherein ~~whereby~~ said reverse transformation functions ~~constitute~~ include an interpretation key for interpreting said positioning signals by applying said reverse transformation functions for decoding them.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1 comprising:

~~a prior stage of~~ registrating before said emitting and verifying a mission declaration comprising a route plan to be followed by the user,

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[[-]] ~~and~~ wherein each request from a user receiver calling for said interpretation key includes a copy of the latest coded positioning signals said user receiver has picked up from the satellites,

[[-]] and wherein the <u>verifying</u> ~~verification~~ of the privileged-user status comprises the sub-stages ~~consisting in~~ <u>including</u> decoding the ~~said~~ coded positioning signals included in said request, ~~in~~ deducing therefrom the position of the receiver, and ~~in~~ verifying that this position <u>is in</u> ~~Is In~~ conformity with the route plan.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising: ~~a prior stage~~

<u>supplying before said emitting and verifying</u> ~~wherein~~ an identifier code which designates the user for a declared mission ~~is supplied~~ to the user during a mission declaration by this user, and wherein said identifier code is broadcast to various user servicing stations to which said user receiver is likely to address a request calling for the interpretation key.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed <u>in</u> ~~In~~ claim 1, comprising:

~~priorly~~ supplying <u>before said emitting and verifying</u> an encryption code to the user during a mission declaration by this user, ~~and~~ wherein the user servicing station receiving said request uses said encryption code to send the interpretation key to the user receiver.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 4, ~~in which~~ <u>wherein</u> said encryption code is used for an authentication process carried out by the privileged-user receiver by comparison between the signal carrying the interpretation key received from the user servicing station in response to said request and said encryption code, the <u>encryption code</u> ~~latter~~ being known to the privileged user.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in ~~In~~ claim 1, further comprising a preliminary stage of invoicing the user benefiting from the privileged-user status.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method further comprises:~~, in order to ensure verification of authenticity and integrity of the positioning signals interpreted, a comparison is carried out~~

comparing by the privileged-user receiver between the signals received from the satellites and the signals received from the services station processing said request, in order to ensure verification of authenticity and integrity of the positioning signals interpreted, and ~~thereby~~ to verify the presence of the same specific fragment respectively accompanying the positioning signals sent out by each satellite and the interpretation key addressed to the user receiver in response to ~~its~~ the request from the user receiver.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

[[-]] including, in each request calling for the interpretation key sent by said privileged-user receiver, a copy of the latest positioning signals received by said receiver, in their transformed form,

[[-]] decoding at the ground stations the transformed positioning signals included in said request, and deducing the position of said receiver therefrom,

[[-]] calculating a degree of precision of said positioning signals as a function[[,]] of said deduced position and/or of ~~the~~ an operational state of the system, and

[[-]] ~~and~~ addressing to said receiver an information of the degree of precision ~~thus calculated~~ obtained by said calculating.

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Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each request originating from [[a]] the plurality of user receivers includes a copy of the a latest coded positioning signals received by the receivers, and further comprising:

decoding the transformed positioning signals included in each request,

deducing therefrom the positions of the various corresponding receivers, end and

addressing to at least some of said plurality of user receivers a position Information information relating to other users among said plurality of user receivers.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 1, wherein each request originating from a plurality of user receivers includes a copy of the latest coded positioning signals received by the receivers, and further comprising:

decoding the transformed positioning signals included in each request,

deducing therefrom the positions of the various corresponding receivers, and

addressing to a traffic control service a position information relating to the position of at least some of said plurality of user receivers among said plurality.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein a basic interpretation key is delivered to any user having a right to at least a first degree of precision in interpreting the positioning signals, and a supplementary interpretation key granting access to a higher-level quality of service, especially via a better degree of precision, is reserved for the users having the benefit of a second privilege.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in In claim 1, wherein each transformation function participating in the definition of the interpretation key is announced

to the user servicing stations with an advance in time with respect to its application to the

positioning signals sent out by the corresponding satellite.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

request signal for the interpretation key sent ~~cut~~ by the user receiver and intended for a user

servicing station comprises a copy of the positioning signals emitted from a plurality of

satellites as received by said user receiver, and wherein the <u>copy</u> signals ~~thus recopied~~ are

processed by said user servicing station applying to them said interpretation key to determine

the position of the said user receiver ~~for use~~ for recognition of the privileged-user status or for

any other monitoring purpose.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim 13, further

comprising<u>:</u>

acquiring again positioning signals by the user receiver from said plurality of satellites

after reception of said interpretation key ~~constituted by~~ <u>including</u> the set of relevant reverse

transformation functions, ~~and~~

applying the ~~letter~~ <u>set of relevant reverse transformation functions</u> to the positioning

signals newly acquired, and

deducing ~~therefrom~~ <u>from the newly acquired positioning signals</u> a new position

information, thereby avoiding that <u>a</u> movement of the receiver during the propagation of the

signals and the processing of the requests result in reducing the precision of the position

information.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A system for positioning by satellites in a security-

protected system for assisted navigation, comprising

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a constellation of <u>orbiting</u> ~~orbitting~~ satellites, each including means for emitting

positioning signals deduced from control signals which they receive from a set of ground

stations<u>, the ground stations being</u> ~~also~~ in communication with each other,

wherein, for at least one user receiver having means for acquiring <u>and interpreting</u>

said positioning signals, ~~for use in interpreting them~~ in order to calculate a position

information, said user receiver further comprises emitting means for sending to said set of

ground stations a request signal calling for an interpretation key which is necessary for said

user receiver to have access to a privilege in using said positioning signals which is reserved

for privileged users, and

wherein said set of ground stations comprises at least one user servicing station

including receiving means for receiving said request, calculating means for verifying, using

said request whether the user for said user-receiver possesses a privileged-user status

allowing him to said privilege, and emitting means for addressing said interpretation key to

said receiver, in the event that the verification is positive.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A positioning system as claimed in claim 15,

wherein each privileged-user receiver further comprises<u>:</u>

means for receiving the interpretation key addressed to user receiver from said

services station in response to its request, and

calculating means for combining said positioning signals with said interpretation key

and deducing therefrom said position information.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A positioning system as claimed in claim 15,

wherein said interpretation key ~~consists of~~ <u>includes</u> defined reverse transformation functions

which are the inverse of direct transformation functions applied respectively by the various

satellites within range of said user receiver for emitting the positioning signals sent

therefrom.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A positioning system as claimed in claim 17,

wherein a master station among said set of ground stations comprises:

[[-]] means for generating the direct transformation functions to be applied at said

satellites for deriving said positioning signals and addressing ~~them~~ to the various satellites for

which they are respectively intended, in addition to the usual control signals such as their

orbital parameters and synchronization information, <u>and</u>

[[-]] ~~and~~ means for calculating said reverse transformation functions and for

broadcasting them any user servicing station within the system for using them in deriving and

transmitting the interpretation key necessary to each user receiver sending a request to that

effect, subject to the verification that the corresponding user is allowed the privileged-user

status.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A user receiver for use in a satellite-navigation

system enabling to reserve an access privilege to privileged users <u>in</u> ~~In~~ at least one

geographical area covered by the system, which, in addition to means for acquiring

positioning signals from a plurality of satellites within ~~its~~ <u>a</u> range <u>of the user receiver</u>,

includes<u>:</u>

request emitting means for sending to a user servicing ground station a request signal

calling for a key for interpreting said positioning signals, said key comprising reverse

transformation functions for inversing direct transformation functions which are applied

respectively by the various satellites in ~~its~~ <u>the</u> range <u>of the user receiver</u> for emitting the

positioning signals sent therefrom, and

~~which further includes~~ calculating means for processing said positioning signals having undergone the direct transformation functions by applying to them the corresponding reverse transformation functions in said interpretation key, once said positioning signals have been received, and for deducing therefrom a position information obtained by interpreting said positioning signals.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A user receiver as claimed in claim 19, <u>further comprising:</u>

means for automatically repeating the emission of said request signal with a predefined periodicity.